MONTEREY NEWS

October 2000
VOLUME XXX · Number 10

The Town

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Winter hours at the transfer station went into effect on September 18. There is a correction to the recently sent notice concerning the winter hours. The notice said that the transfer station would be open on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The correct Sunday hours are from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Complete hours for the transfer statio are as follows:

Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wed.: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(unchanged)
Saturday: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(unchanged)

Applications for authorized users' vehicles may be obtained at Town Hall at any time. Completed applications, together with the fee, may be mailed or left at Town Hall. The sticker will be mailed to the applicant.

Jane Salamon

Carly Salamon Antonioli in ice-cream reverie on General Store porch

Lake Garfield Drawdown

The annual flood-control drawdown of Lake Garfield will commence on October 1 and full drawdown will be completed by October 15 (unless terminated earlier by the Department of Environmental Protection). Refilling will be accomplished on or about February 15, 2001, barring late spring flood danger.

Town Hall Renovations

On Monday, September 11, David Bixby, an architect with Clark & Green of Great Barrington, met with the Select Board to discuss the finalization of plans for renovation of the town offices. The primary purpose of the renovations is for "barrier removal," or changing those parts of the building that make it difficult for a person with physical handicaps to move freely through the building. Changes will include installing an elevator between the basement and main floor, lowering the third level of the building to the main floor, and adding a ramp outside the building.

The Berkshire Housing Development Corporation is Monterey's agent for this project, and worked with the town in applying for a Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development to pay for the project. Subcontractor bids will be opened on September 29 at Berkshire Housing, and general bids will be opened on October 6.

Money Conference for Women

State Treasurer Shannon O'Brien, in partnership with the YWCAs of Massachusetts, will be hosting a series of free financial conferences for women. One of these, The Money Conference for Women, will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2000, at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield. This is a free daylong conference modeled on a similar event that

drew more than 1,600 women last October in Boston.

This conference is designed for women of all ages, incomes, and levels of financial knowledge. It will address the unique financial issues women face that put them at higher risk for poverty later in life.

The event will feature recognized leaders in the financial services industry who will offer practical advice and tools to help participants design and implement a personal savings strategy. Workshops will include topics such as personal finances, investing, retirement planning, college financing, getting out of debt, and choosing a financial advisor.

For information on how to register for this event, please contact Muriel Lazzarini at the Town Hall.

Transfer Station Renovations

Plans continue to be made to upgrade the Monterey Transfer Station. Due to financial concerns and instructions from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Select Board has decided to proceed with the renovations in two stages. This is also an improvement in that it allows the town to continue using the transfer station during the upgrades, rather than creating a new temporary transfer station site.

The completed upgrades will include a building for the transfer station attendant and for items to be swapped. The dumpsters will also be more accessible. They will be in one line, and the bulky waste container will be below the road, so that large items can be more easily disposed of.

Although plans are now being finalized, a timetable for the upgrade is not yet available.

New Office for Police Department

The Monterey Police Department will be moving into a new office in the basement of Town Hall. The move will be made to accommodate a new computer system which requires secure facilities.

The Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) is a computer network that will allow the Police Department to make background and vehicle checks, enter motor vehicle accident reports and motor vehicle citations, and keep up to date on changes in laws and regulations. Currently, all of these Police Department functions must be carried out through the mail, which is a much slower process.

The computer system is available through a grant from the Criminal Histories Board and the Department of Public Safety.

Monterey School Teaches DARE

The DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program will again be taught at Monterey School this year. Police Officer Sherry Johnson will teach the course, which for kindergartners consists of three twenty-minute sessions about drugs, general safety, and safety around strangers.

The DARE grant that funds the program also pays for a more extensive course for fifth-graders in Sheffield and a DARE Summer Camp program, which is available every year in Sheffield.

— Melissa Hochstetler

This is Melissa's last article as Town Reporter. Suzanne Hoppenstedt will take over beginning with the next issue. More than once over the last eight months the editor has come across Melissa running along the back roads of Monterey in her sneakers, proving (as if there were any doubt after reading her monthly installments) that she covered her beat well. Thanks, Melissa!

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

I've spent the past week moving from Gould Farm to the parsonage, from one Monterey hillside to another. It's hard to leave the community at the Farm, but I think I'm just shifting my center as a member of the Monterey community. This town has helped me fall in love with rural life — something I admit I found a bit embarrassing at first, since when I was growing up in Chicago I vowed always to live in cities. My mother used to tell me that life was what happened to you when you were planning something else.

Many ministers without families serve churches in towns where they know no one. I feel blessed to have been called to a church in a town where I've had the opportunity to know and become familiar with many folks. You might recognize me from a play at Monterey Days two summers ago, or from a year of answering the Gould Farm phones, or from a Gould Farm column I wrote for the *Monterey News*, or from all The Usuals I find myself eating at the Roadside Store. I have some acquaintance with the town culture; I have already experienced a Monterey Day parade, swimming at Lake Garfield, getting sandwiches from the General Store, perusing the new fiction at the library, hiking the Appalachian Trail, and becoming very fond of maple syrup! I'm sure I will continue to discover new things about this community over the next few years.

I have been a part of the meetinghouse church for two years now. I have been drawn to the simple beauty of the building and the services. It is an honor and a joy for me to be able to serve the church now and create a worship space for the people who come. I have not been to divinity school yet, but I hope to begin before long, though I think I will learn more working here than I will in class.

All people are always welcome at the church; do consider coming to share the sacred space and seek God with us. Services are at 10 o'clock in the morning every Sunday. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 528-5850 or e-mail me at heidiruthha@hotmail.com.

— Heidi R. Haverkamp

George Emmons

Demolition of additions to Edith Wilson house, August 28

Cultural Council Accepting Grant Applications

The Monterey Cultural Council is now accepting applications for the current grant cycle. Submissions must be received by October 16, 2000. For further information about applications, contact Bonnie Jurgenson, Town Secretary, at 528-1443. Applications should be addressed to Monterey Cultural Council, Town Hall, Monterey, MA 01245.

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Heidi Haverkamp, Pastor

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Heidi Haverkamp 528-5850

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Co-op Dependent

A Confession and a Plug

I have been a co-op user for twenty-five years, maybe twenty-six. It started out as a small habit, about $25 per month. To join the Monterey Food Co-op you had to pay a deposit of roughly what you thought your monthly order would amount to, and for most of us then this was about $25. If you ever quit the co-op, you could get your $25 back — when you left town or died or whatever it was that prompted you to withdraw from the food-buying club. All these years I have left my money tied up and by now I have to understand that the only ones who will ever see it again, in cash form, will be my heirs.

The membership deposit is still $25. You still pay this up front when you join, though it is no longer considered an estimate of what anyone's order might be. We commonly make a group order for more than $2,000 worth of food — everything from lip balm to light bulbs, kefir to kitty litter.

In the old days, food came to the co-op only in bulk and we broke it down, repacking it ourselves into bottles and bags. Now you can get a case of lip balms if you like, or you can order just one. You can still buy a sixty-pound tin of honey, or you can get a single twelve-ounce honey bear. The co-op suppliers are serving lots of storefronts, including regular retail stores, so they have had to adjust their packaging accordingly. Our once-a-month buying club still has some advantages over retail shopping, including low prices and a huge selection, but there are some major disadvantages, too. The principal one, for me, is that sometimes what I have ordered and waited patiently to get just doesn't arrive. This past month, out of hundreds of items on our group order, only three packages of a certain type of tempeh mysteriously did not show up. The people who wanted it will be sad — but they can get in their cars and go to town to fill that empty place in the fridge where tempeh needs to be. So it's not such a disaster.

Another disadvantage to co-op buying is that you have to plan ahead. You have to keep a list for weeks, then fill out an order form, which is just as tedious a thing as any other form-filling you may encounter.

On the plus side, you then take your form down to Walsh's garage and slip it into the handy burlap bag on the door. This is starting to feel homey/revolutionary. You are starting to smile now. And then if you are lucky you may encounter Brook Walsh, who in my twenty-six years of dropping off orders at his place has never failed to greet me pleasantly. Homey/revolutionary/friendly!

I am sitting here at my desk drinking Equal Exchange Free Trade Organic coffee from the co-op, with green-cap High Lawn Farm unhomogenized milk from the Monterey General Store. I am listening to a reggae CD I got in today's co-op order, kind of previewing it to see if a teenager I know could possibly be expected to like it for her birthday (I'm not too sure about this — she likes MOBY, which is not reggae). Like anybody else, I put together the pieces of my daily life as a consumer, a little from here and a little from there. I get more from my garden than some people do. They go to the General Store, the CSA, or maybe they order organic produce from the Monterey Food Co-op.

This morning I spent about 3 hours in downtown Monterey, working with my friends and neighbors, including three children and one handsome dog (not mine). I walked out with almond butter, ketchup, candles, sunflower seeds, great coffee, and reggae (to list just a few of my purchases). I got mail, milk and some other essentials at the General Store and headed home, loaded, without ever having left town. I saw some of my oldest pals down at the Monterey Food Co-op and compared notes on many a topic, crucial/hilarious; I deepened the level of my co-op dependency.

Anyone interested in exploring possibilities like these is welcome to drop by the meetinghouse basement on a Friday morning (it's only once a month — check the calendar) or call me: Bonner McAllester, Monterey Food Co-op Coordinator, 528-9385.

— Bonner McAllester

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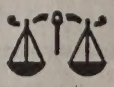

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Lake Garfield Year 2000 Plant Survey Report

Glynis Oliver

On July 28, scientists from the BSC Group in Worcester, Massachusetts, conducted a survey of the aquatic plants growth in Lake Garfield. The last water plant survey was done in 1992. With this in mind, and under a recommendation from the scientists who in 1999 implanted our last group of milfoil weevils, a new survey was considered. The Town of Monterey joined with the LGA to fund a survey in year 2000. The purpose of the survey was to update information on the aquatic plants in 30 designated areas in Lake Garfield, to provide guidance for future efforts in lake preservation and weed control.

One of our ongoing concerns was the exotic invasive water plant Eurasian milfoil. In 1992, it was found in 9 of 27 sites sampled. In the current survey, it was found in 13 of 30 sites. However, only one of those 13 sites had healthy milfoil; most are small and not vigorous, and are surrounded by healthy native plants. Apparently both our native weevils and those implanted under our milfoil weevil program between 1997 and 1999 have been at work.

The results of the survey indicate Lake Garfield has "a diverse aquatic plant community dominated by a variety of native species." Conclusion: yes, we've got weeds and they need work, but no one species is in present danger of taking over. Within the report is an appendix of aquatic plants commonly found in Lake Garfield. Maps identify the sampling stations and the types of plants found at each station, along with the percentage of plant coverage found.

The Monterey Library has a copy of the survey for viewing and use. Residents are encouraged to use the survey to identify the plants and plant density in their local area, and then to monitor the situation.

At drawdown, lakeshore homeowners should rake up weeds to reduce growth for next year. While you're out there, dig up and destroy any purple loosestrife growing on your shore. (It's not in the survey because it grows on the shore, not in the water.) If left to grow it can take over the shoreline.

Thanks to the town and all who supported the Lake Garfield Association to fund this survey!

— Patricia Edelstein,
Lake Garfield Association

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October at Bidwell House

October is my favorite time at the Bidwell House as the colors of the museum's stately trees are spectacular! We encourage everyone to come to the house to either take a tour or hike our many trails to witness the splendor of autumn.

We are winding down for the season and will be open for house tours through October 15. It's been a wonderful season at the museum, with exciting education programs and good attendance. As always, we had a wealth of visitors from outside Berkshire County, including our share of visitors from abroad.

Glynis Oliver

Bidwell Family Reunion at the Bidwell House, September 9, 2000

Perhaps the most exciting event was the Bidwell Family Reunion held the weekend of September 8–10 (see article on p. 7). Many thanks to Marie Leuchs and her children and grandchildren who served as docents on Saturday. It was amazing to have direct descendants of Rev. Bidwell giving tours of the house to Bidwells from afar. I couldn't have done it without them! We made many new Bidwell friends, gleaned more genealogical information, and provided much more information back to various descendants. I feel very lucky to have been here this summer and to have been a part of this historic event for the museum.

We have one more education program this season. On Sunday, October 8, at 1:00 p.m. the museum will host a talk and guided hike to **The Ancient Cairns on the Bidwell House Property.** This event will take visitors on one of our hiking trails to the stone cairn on our property. George Emmons, museum Board member, will discuss the possibility of the cairns being of Native American origin or remains from farming activity in the nineteenth century. If by chance it's raining, we will hold the talk in the museum's Carriage Barn. Cost is $3.00 for adults and free for members.

Currently, the Board of Directors of the museum is interviewing candidates for the position of museum director and hopes to have a new person in place very soon. I will be returning to Boston after October 15 to become the new Deputy Director of the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History in Weston. Due to the nature of my move back to Boston, I will not be able to bring my two cats. Would any *Monterey News* readers be interested in two wonderful male neutered cats? Please call me at 528-6888 during the day or evening if you are interested!

The house is open for tours Tuesday to Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. through October 15. The grounds and trails are open every day during daylight hours throughout the year. Admission for house tours is $5.00 for adults, $4.00 for seniors, and $3.00 for children. Members are always free of charge. For further information call me at 528-6888.

— Lisa Simpson

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Bidwell Family Reunion 2000

When my husband, Arnie, and I were first approached about hosting the 2000 Bidwell Family Association annual reunion, we looked at each other, shrugged, and said, "Why not?" It is the year of the 250th anniversary of the Bidwell House, after all, and what better way to celebrate than to bring the reunion here to the Berkshires. So, on the weekend of September 8 – 10, 2000, the many months of planning finally came to fruition, as over ninety Bidwell "relatives" and descendants of the early Bidwell settlers from England convened at Eastover, in Lenox.

What had seemed like a daunting task fell little by little into perspective, as the plans unfolded and things began to come together. With the help of Marie Bidwell Leuchs and her family, including her two grandsons, who all acted as guides at the Bidwell House, and Ruth and Alden Tyrol of Otis, the details were worked out for the weekend's events.

The festivities began on Friday evening with dinner and informational talks by Lisa Simpson about the Bidwell House, and Marie Leuchs about the stained glass studio of her husband, Fred, in Stockbridge. Afterward there was ample time for socializing and reacquainting with each other, as there were many familiar faces along with many who were there for the first time.

Saturday morning the regular business meeting was held; the afternoon, of course, was spent at the Bidwell House. In the rain but nevertheless undaunted, the group toured the house and was privileged to hear Kathy Wasiuk vividly portray the life and times of Mercy Partridge Whitney. Mercy, the granddaughter of Rev. Adonijah Bidwell, accompanied her missionary husband to Hawaii. At the conclusion of the afternoon a Bidwell House birthday cake was presented, a group picture was taken, and everyone headed back to Eastover for dinner followed by the reunion annual auction.

Sunday, bright and sunny once again, was another full day of activity. It started with the worship and remembrance service, led by MaryKate Jordan and Faith Heath. Then came brunch and afternoon tours of Chesterwood, the Rockwell Museum, and the Fred Leuchs Stained Glass Studio. Back at Eastover once again, the weekend culminated with a lot of laughter at dinner. Then good-byes were said with the anticipation of seeing one another next year when the reunion will be held in Iowa. And, yes, a good time was had by all.

— Judy B. Hayes

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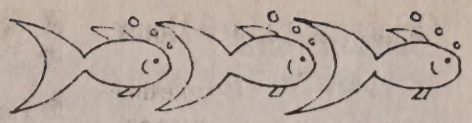

From the Hatchery Porch

This September, it has been one year since overgrown lawns were mown and boards were pulled off abandoned buildings at the Berkshire Fish Hatchery. As the trees begin to shift in hues from greens to more flamboyant dress, I am reminded of the uncovered beauty that can exist in change.

Since the Hatchery has reopened, fish swarm again in rhythmic circles in the pools. The salmon have noticeably grown into rather majestic fish with iridescent scales! On a recent visit to the Mystic Aquarium, I thought that the grace and frenzy of a tiger shark was no less impressive than that of Hatchery trout at feeding time. Visitors have been abundant at the Hatchery throughout the spring and summer. Several folks have spoken of another time when they came as kids, and are now bringing their grandchildren to peer into the pools. Many volunteers and laborers have given time and sweat to help with tours, cleaning tanks, remarking trails, and rebuilding the kiosk that welcomes visitors with maps and brochures. A local 4-H group has adopted some fish, and assisted in feeding and cleaning their tanks before showing them at a state exhibit. A guest at Gould Farm created an artistic rendition of two signs to mark the trails. On the boundary of Gould Farm, a fish points with its fins the way to the Hatchery and a cow points with her hoof back to the Farm from the Hatchery lawns.

The interconnections and support continue to flourish as the Hatchery evolves and its presence again becomes part of the community. The fish grow to bring life back to rivers, the Hatchery grows to bring wisdom about our natural world, and the community grows to link us back to one another. May this second September spark new visions and ventures ... in cadence with the shift of seasons and the belief in the unseen buds of spring.

— M. Hamilton

Senator Says
Prepare Now for Winter

Given the dire predictions of high prices for both oil and natural gas this winter, many folks will be hard-pressed to meet the rising costs of heating their homes. The good news is that there are some things you can do to save money on your heating and utility bills. Even the smartest consumers may be unaware of popular programs for which all of us, as electric and gas customers, have already paid.

A number of utility-based programs are paid for through a conservation fee assessed on every gas or electric bill. By taking advantage of these programs, you are simply making use of a community resource. Remember, saving energy not only reduces your own bills: by reducing demand for energy, you help to keep prices lower for everyone.

Home Energy Surveys: Make an appointment for a home energy analysis. Certified professional auditors evaluate your house or apartment to show you practical energy-saving tips and ways to reduce energy use, and to identify possible improvements. The service may also include installation of selected energy-saving devices, information on mail order materials for do-it-yourself work, referrals to contractors, post-installation inspection, and referrals to community and utility energy conservation programs.

The Center for Ecologic Technology and electric and gas utility companies provide cost-free energy audits. You do not have to meet any specific income guidelines to take advantage of the audit programs. To set up an appointment or for more information, call Mass-Save at (800) 632-8300 or the Center for Ecologic Technology (CET) at (800) 238-1221.

Weatherizing, Furnace Servicing: With or without an energy audit, households that use oil heat should have their burners cleaned and serviced annually. A clean burner operates more efficiently, saving you money each time your furnace clicks into action. Although this is not a free service, you should call your oil company for an appointment if your burner is due for a cleaning.

With a completed energy audit, you will receive a list of things you can do to achieve savings on your gas, electric, water, and heating bills. You can follow up on the recommendations by taking advantage of reduced prices on weatherization and energy-saving products available through a bulk purchasing cooperative. This cooperative buys materials in large quantities and can provide savings on weatherization materials, energy efficient lighting products, and water conservation devices. Call CET at (800) 238-1221 for more information.

Income-qualified households can go a step further. A state-wide Weatherization Program is implemented by Community Action Programs in each region. These groups assist income-qualified households to conserve fuel by improving insulation, stopping leaks and installing weather stripping. All work is done by certified professional auditors and licensed, professional contractors.

In much of western Massachusetts the Heating System Service Program is also run by the Community Action Programs. This service provides repair work, including annual cleanings, on the primary heating system of income-eligible households. In some areas, chimney cleaning may be available. In cases where your heating system is unsafe or inoperable, you may be eligible for a system replacement.

If you heat your home with electricity, you are eligible for free insulation, regardless of income. Gas heat consumers are eligible for 50% subsidies for insulation work done by approved contractors. Rebates toward the cost of efficient new gas burners and other more efficient appliances are also available. Contact your utility company or Mass-Save at (800) 632-8300 for more information.

Fuel Assistance: The Community Action Programs also provide financial assistance for heating costs to income-qualified households. A one-person household with a gross income of $16,700 per year can qualify for fuel assistance. Larger households can qualify with even higher incomes. Contact my district office at (413) 442-6810 for the name and number of the Community Action Program that serves your area.

In Aesop's fables, the ant took steps during the summer to ensure it would be comfortable when winter came. An energy audit and other energy-saving measures can help ensure that you are among the ants, and not the sadder-but-wiser grasshoppers, when temperatures fall.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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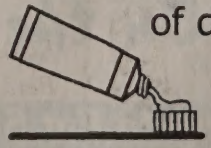
528-6520
Route 23 Monterey

Sandisfield Arts Center Looking For Programs

The Sandisfield Arts Center is taking applications for its summer performing arts series which runs from June through October 2001, and for the winter series featuring smaller events. All types of programs will be considered.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield. Originally a Baptist meetinghouse, the building dates back to 1839. In the 1900s it served as an orthodox synagogue. This historic building with its tall ceilings and great acoustics is slated for a complete renovation over the next five years. The main hall seats approximately 180.

The Sandisfield Arts & Restoration Committee is a volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring the arts center building and holding quality cultural and educational programs for the residents of Sandisfield and surrounding towns. Entertainers are encouraged to apply by October 15, 2000, for some assistance through grants from the local cultural councils.

Send letter of application to Michael Rosenberg, Sandisfield Arts Center, P.O. Box 31, Sandisfield, MA 01255. Call (413) 258-4840 for more information.

Rep Rap

In 1998 the county's largest doctors' group, Berkshire Physicians and Surgeons (BP&S), signed an agreement with ProMedCo, a company located in Texas. The agreement maintained that ProMedCo would pay $23 million to acquire the assets of BP&S and in turn would handle BP&S's administrative business so that the doctors could spend more time caring for their patients than doing paperwork.

To many people this sounded like a good idea. I was opposed to the partnership from the outset. Decisions were going to be made from ProMedCo's corporate offices in Texas, far away from the needs of BP&S's patients in the Berkshires. The collaboration between the two entities was driven by financial gain. I wrote to the Attorney General's office and the state Board of Registration in Medicine to investigate the sale. Health care should not be about the maximization of profits; health care is about patients' well-being. The sale was allowed to go through. Now two years later BP&S and ProMedCo have severed their partnership.

In the wake of this announcement, medical and nonmedical staff received termination notices, and the doctors who have remained with the practice are concerned because their malpractice insurance will end. BP&S patients have called my office scared that their doctors will be gone, care will be discontinued, and their records will be in disarray. The continuity of patient care is a priority for me as many BP&S patients face uncertain times. I have discussed the matter with the Attorney General's office and requested that a transition plan be put in place to insure that patient care and record confidentiality is not jeopardized.

I will remain vigilant on this issue to insure consumer health care is not compromised as we undergo this change. While uncertainty may loom on this issue, we can be sure of one thing. We are very fortunate to have facilities in our area like Fairview Hospital and Berkshire Medical Center, which have continued to offer quality medical care as the health care landscape shifts.

As always please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this or any other issue at my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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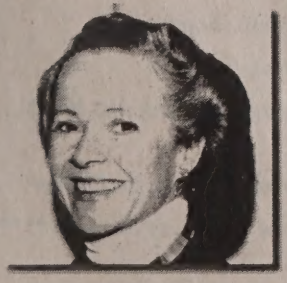

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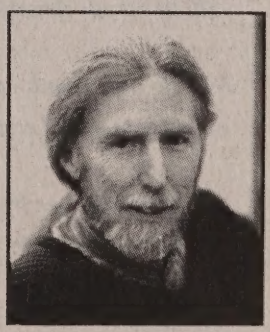

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Driven

Driven, by lust —
an acrid windstorm

Driven, by fear —
a crevice deep

Driven, by hope —
a trail so steep

Driven, by envy —
a pale vine clasping

Driven, by love —
a smooth leaf lifting

— Edwin Schur

No Faith to Lose

I saw something die
with its mouth clenched on something.

As it died its mouth opened slowly,
slowly, wider and wider,

then the thing was freed,
and it fell to the side,

forsaken.

— Peter Shepley

Tribute to a Lunar Ray

In memory of a great environmentalist
and childhood friend

It is when the moon cracks through
the thick sable of sky,
that the audible cough of a lone coyote
curls over the still summit air

lying in your tent
pitched away from the tender mountainous moss
the moon laps at the window netting
illuminating your worn traveled boots

the coyote's whisper croons —
echoing a hallowed call
to lace and follow a scurrying foxtail
into the moonlit brush

the fern.
the moss.
the loon.
they rush to embrace you.
their friend who spun roofs for their heads
and strove to assure that canopies
of hemlocks and firs may cast their roots
for generations unseen

when the new moon rises
amber melts upon the foothills
and you rise up in its mist
reminding us from where your boots tread
to step tenderly among the alpine lichen,
following the coyote, courageously into the brush ...

*****And your reverent footsteps shall remain forever*
*upon the terrain of this soul*****

— M. Hamilton

Legacy

Death may dignify in time
some of those our troubled hours
others, one day, may come to know
the unsung secrets that were ours —
either forgotten or penned to a page
by some well-meaning
but unknowing hand —
would that these true and lively words
might flicker, flame
for some to understand.

Death, the perimeter of our actions,
encloses all we would have been
gives with its limits new proportion
to any memory we win.

The rushing wake of soaring birds
cannot be seen against the sky
nor could those incandescent hours
be captured as they hurried by.

So many wings of love now drifting
through everything I write
would they could lift my words, come death,
bequeath to lovers everywhere
this legacy of light!

— A. O. Howell

More than Crickets

more than crickets chanting I
need a bluegrass melody
to frog jump across August
eyelash curtain zinnia
minds me back to Bobo's mind:
how simple and bold we live
and paint with gardens, kitchens,
the church across the canal
basilico universe
galactic interaction
no bombs nor missiles flying
skeltering our summer skies
lives and bodies torn askew
bloodbath revenge of cowards —
no state and no fence of faith
has the right to take a life
for its own sake or image

meadows full of dragonflies
mosquitos full of twilight
tell the cook to stir clockwise
while we slow dance till leaf fall

— R. Zukowski

Jewelweed

"With fierce distracted eye . . ."

Does everyone know jewelweed? Perhaps not by that name. As I look through my obscure historical and botanical references I find that this simple plant has more than thirty different names, all of which tell something about its looks and properties. Here are my four favorites: kicking-colt, hummingbird tree, wart-wort, and Jack-jump-up-and-kiss-me.

Jewelweed grows just about anywhere. It appreciates a sopping summer like the one we have just had and thrives particularly in damp shady places. On the other hand, it survives drought and can be found growing thickly in "disturbed" areas including dry sandy roadsides. Its stem is succulent, juicy, and quite fragile. Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal in 1851 that he tried to collect some ". . . with its dangling yellow pitchers or horns of plenty which I have seen for a month by damp causeway thickets, but the whole plant was so tender and drooped so soon I could not get it home." It's true. If you pick a pretty stalk and put it in a glass of water, somehow it will not perk up. But in the woods or along the driveway, if a dry spell causes jewelweed to wilt dramatically, it will revive with the first rain.

In fact, jewelweed has some remarkable adaptations which enable it not only to survive but even to reproduce, when conditions are bad. The pretty orange flower has a deep spur. Long-tongued pollinators such as hummingbirds, hawkmoths, and bumblebees are attracted by the color and the aroma of the blossom. They come for nectar and take away pollen, inadvertently, according to the familiar plan. This they carry to another plant, dusting the stigmas, cross-pollinating the plants. In this way, genetic mixing occurs and over time natural selection enables the plant to adapt to changing conditions. This is evolution. In this

system, the blossom falls away leaving a long seedpod which consists of five slim sections. These are held together along seam lines, but they are under pressure, a sort of torsion, which finally reaches the bursting point just when the seeds are mature. The slightest touch will cause the pod to pop, the five parts to snap back in tight curls, and the seeds inside (usually five) to be flung out as far as five feet from the plant. People who raise domestic impatiens plants are familiar with these popping pods; jewelweed is a wild impatiens.

Even if no one is around to tickle its pods, the jewelweed will pop. We were standing around the barnyard the other day here, admiring this year's tall jewelweeds which have flourished particularly with all the rain. This day, though, the sun was out and the weather light and breezy. Suddenly we realized we were hearing raindrops somewhere — maybe on the leaves of the trees? Maybe on the barn roof? It seemed impossible, given the clear blue sky. Still the pitter-patter kept up. We held out our palms, looked skyward, shrugged, felt foolish — and finally noticed that what we were hearing was thousands of jewelweed seeds snapping from their pods all around us. Their moment had come; they were assuring the next year's crop.

In a dry or undernourished place, the jewelweed switches to another plan. Instead of producing those big orange flowers and those five-seeded pods, it will rely on another sort of blossom, one that is much smaller and never even opens. This type is called a cleistogamous or "closed marriage" blossom. It is tiny, only 1 to 2 mm. long, and forms in the axils of the leaves on the lower parts of the plant. It remains green, never makes sweet nectar, and does not attract the travelling pollinators. Instead, this energy-efficient little blossom, which contains both pollen and ovum, accomplishes self-fertilization and produces one or two

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seeds. This is called "selfing," in plants. Its only drawback is that it does not allow genetic mixing of two different sets of parent genes. Still, it carries the population through a hard season so that it will pop up again ready to make the showy, chasmogamous or "open marriage" blossoms that do provide genetic mixing, if conditions are right. Erasmus Darwin, poet and grandfather of Charles, wrote:

With fierce distracted eye Impatiens stands
Swells her pale cheeks and brandishes her hands,
With rage and hate the astonished groves alarms
And hurls her infants from her frantic arms.

Whatever kind of mother she may be to her own kind, jewelweed has for hundreds of years been considered a good nurse for people with ailments. You can rub its juices on nettle stings or poison ivy rashes and expect a cure. You can make an ointment for aches and bruises and use it for getting rid of warts (hence the name wart-wort). You can cure ringworm and ease the pain of hemorrhoids. Early colonists here found it to be a "sovereign remedy for bruises of what kind soever; and for aches upon stroaks" (John Josselyn, in his 1672 book, *New England Rarities*). Who may have named it "Jack-jump-up-and-kiss-me," we can only guess, but I am sure it works every bit as well for that as for all our other needs.

— Bonner J. McAllester

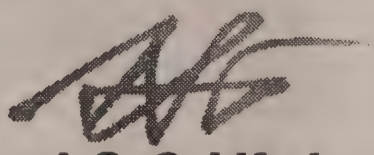
Glynis Oliver

The pumpkins at Rawson Brook Farm are still hiding, but almost ripe.

Sandisfield Historic House Tour Set for October 14

The Sandisfield Arts Center is sponsoring a self-guided tour of eight historic sites in Sandisfield on Saturday, October 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. "The Hidden Historic Homes of Sandisfield" features six unique homes built between 1737 and 1886. The tour also features the New Boston Church with its original stained glass windows and the Sandisfield Arts Center, which was originally a Baptist meetinghouse in the 1800s, then was transformed into an orthodox synagogue in the 1920s.

Tickets are $15 per person and may be purchased at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Hammertown Road off Route 57 on the day of the tour. A seasonal hot lunch will be served at the New Boston Inn, Berkshire County's oldest continuously run inn (since 1737). Lunch tickets are $10 per person. Many of the historic homes boast beautiful gardens and unique histories. One home was a stagecoach stop; another contains a secret hiding place that was once part of the underground railroad. Sandisfield is approximately 25 minutes east of Great Barrington and is known for its scenic beauty and peaceful rural setting. Proceeds from the historic house tour go to fund the restoration of the 1839 Sandisfield Arts Center building. The roof has been completely restored making the foundation the next most urgent repair. A capital campaign is underway to secure matching funds for grants from organizations such as the Massachusetts Historical Commission. For more information or reservations, please call (413) 258-4904.



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Water over the Dam and under the Bridge

Synchronized with the seasonal revolution of the Earth in its orbit, and in symphony with the music of the spheres in heaven, but set in motion by a mechanical turn of a screw, the hydraulic flood gate at the Brewer Pond dam must now be lowered. This gate also controls the water level of Lake Garfield, as both bodies are connected by two corrugated drain tubes under Tyringham Road near the town beach. Thus begins the annual autumn drawdown.

The Brewer Pond dam on Beartown Mountain Road, near the entrance to the Brewer Pond Nature Trail, is actually an earthen dike. It may appear large enough to be a seawall, but the drawdown is not like a flood caused by the fabled Hans Brinker removing his finger. Instead, the goal of the release is carefully calculated only to deter the growth of next year's weeds.

Even with only a moderated adjustment, the gravitational pull soon begins to gather up the last rain drops of summer to pass through the narrow tubes under the road. Subtle currents from across the lake converge like sands of time (not from the beach) through an hourglass, measuring the fleeting days of aquatic activity. But Mother Nature, not to be upstaged by any artificial display, is already hard at work choreographing her own dramatic production of waterworks.

When the warming sun rises each morning over the southern Berkshires, a heavy mist over surface waters is a sign they are cooling down. Cold water sinks, while still warmer thermals down below begin to rise. Any visible organic composition seems to be agitated, and, in effect, a lake is said to turn over. This is a low-profile phenomenon, not anything you can charge admission to see.

The affluence of the Garfield drawdown gushes out of a single pipe through Brewer Pond Dam, falls into the Konkapot River, and heads for the bridge in the center of Monterey ("a river runs through it"). This must be a wake-up call for trout hiding under banks along the way. After a lean low-water selection of food, what fly fishermen who are also entomologists call terrestrials are washed into the fray. They include ants, spiders, beetles, and grasshoppers, as well as amphibians such as frogs and salamanders, as in my drawing.

After the Konkapot River passes under the bridge in the center of Monterey, it flows behind the General Store and over the still-standing mill dam to fall into a series of gleaming pools through Bidwell Park. There is public access to this beautiful wooded retreat complete with a picnic table, just across Main Road from the Town Hall. It is a treasure, a place for quiet musing where waters flow past in search of the sites of mills that long ago stood downstream. Over the many years when water power still attracted industry, there was a sawmill, a gristmill, a paper mill, a cotton mill, a wool-carding mill, and a tannery. The buildings and dams are long gone, except for the waterfall in the park, leaving only stone foundations, spouting forth like gargoyles, but with no trace of any by-products.

Manufacturing sites had a history of raising water temperatures and decreasing the oxygen content essential to the survival of aquatic cultures, and particularly trout. At the end of the nineteenth century, the hides of buffalo slaughtered out west were shipped back east to tanneries situated along New England streams. Pine trees all around them were cut down to obtain pitch to make turpentine for treating the hides. The stream water now exposed to sunlight became so warm that major trout populations were wiped out. The near annihilation of huge buffalo herds so far away had a catastrophic impact on a totally unrelated environment.

There are two species of trout that spawn in the fall instead of the spring: the native brook trout and the imported brown trout, brought to this country because it could tolerate warm waters. This may have encouraged the Department of Fisheries to cross the two to produce what is called a tiger trout, which is now in our waters. The tiger trout combines the best instincts of a brook trout and the durability of a brown trout.

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Farther down the Konkapot River at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, 150 gallons of water an hour come out of artesian wells at 47 degrees, cold enough for salmon or trout. Ken Bergstrom, hatchery director from Hampshire College, is contemplating a heritage research project to study our local native trout, particularly fingerlings with origins in springs up in the mountains. They may still retain some genetic traits, lost down below after a hundred years of stocking. The prospect of this project is of great interest to local members of The Izaak Walton League, and it deserves support and participation.

Still farther down the Konkapot, in Southfield, there is an infusion of cold overflow from the Berkshire Mountain Spring Water Co., which cannot use more than 15,000 gallons a day of the water that flows from a single spring at an astonishing 44 degrees, every day of the year. Hydrologists believe that such a gusher can only come from an aquifer a mile below the surface. Marketing spring drinking water is a modern business, but long ago, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, in his infinite wisdom, once said, "We do not know the value of water until we do not have it." And now the retail cost of bottled spring water is not cheap, perhaps reflecting its intrinsic value.

In Monterey, we can celebrate the natural beauty of our surface waters. Some seventy-five families that live in the center of town enjoy spring water from the Monterey Water Co., with its source on Sandisfield Road. We are all truly blessed when it rains pennies from heaven, and environmentally endowed when water bubbles out of the earth. And now, with the drawdown of Lake Garfield, the surplus of a season past becomes water over the dam, and under the bridge.

— George Emmons

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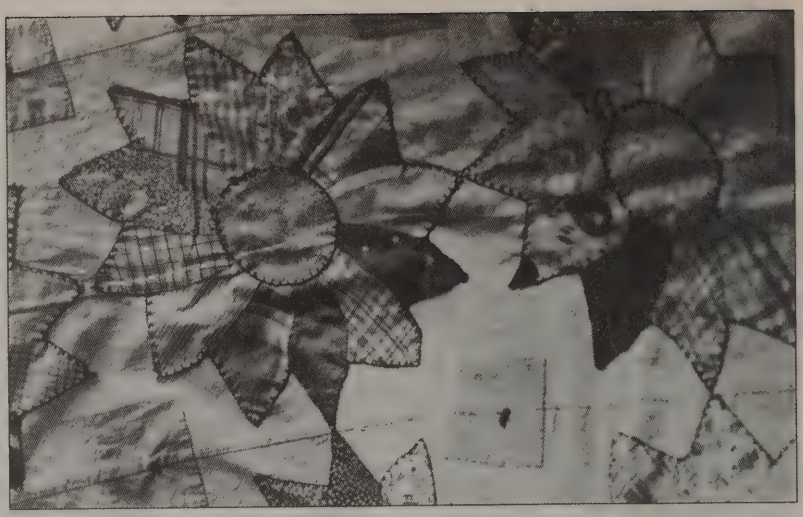

photos MaryKate Jordan

Have Needle; Will (Time) Travel

Kathy Bracken's Stitchery: Two

The legacy from Kathy's father's side of the family shows the roots of Kathy's appreciation of beauty, rather than her skill at creating it. The two comforters, gifts to Kathy from her Grandmother Tuttle, were made by a neighbor of the Tuttles, someone whose name Kathy doesn't know. But Mrs. Tuttle had treasured them, and passed them on to her granddaughter because she knew Kathy would love them, too.

A comforter is a triple-layered fabric bedcovering which is held together with tied threads at measured intervals. It is simpler and faster to create than a quilt, which has overall patterns of decorative stitchery holding its front, back, and batting firmly together.

In this case, each comforter has a single image which is repeated to create the overall pattern. The work is done in a style called appliqué: pieces of colored fabric are stitched to the background. In both bedcovers, the appliqué work is done on muslin, and is outlined with buttonhole stitching done with embroidery floss.

The butterflies' calico wings are outlined in black and pale pink. They almost seem to shimmer when the light catches the pink threads. They also have black French knots on their wings, and their bodies are made with black and ecru running stitches. Laid out in a 5 x 6 pattern, all 30 butterflies are stitched into a lattice of sky blue cotton.

The centers of the dahlias are bright yellow. They, like the multicolored petals, are outlined with the black floss. Looking at them side by side, it's easy to assume that both comforters were made by the same person, even though the patterns are so different.

Because her grandmother cared for her neighbor's comforters and recognized the same quality of caring in her granddaughter, she passed them on to Kathy. Because her home is here in Monterey, her family's fiber arts history is part of our heritage, too.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Who's Who

To the Editor:

As a former resident of Monterey I found considerable pleasure in reviewing the 1997 Monterey history entitled *Monterey, a Local History*, a fine coordinated effort that answers many of my unspoken questions raised during the 1930s and early 1940s.

I was totally surprised to turn to page 79 and discover an early picture [right] of myself at Corashire School in 1934. The date seems obvious to me since I am sitting in the *second* chair in the second row in front of Bea [the teacher]. First graders sat in the front seat, second graders behind, and so forth. I recognize several students whom I list here. Starting on the far wall and left of Bea Phillips, front to back is George Tuttle (now deceased), an unknown student behind him. Second row: me, then Donald Brett, girl unknown, and finally Gordon Stafford in last chair (retired in Sierra Vista, AZ). Third row is Arthur Hastedt, behind him are unknown and unknown. Many other students were a part of this school attendance at that time but are not shown — like Peter Phillips, Albert Hastedt, Marjorie Brett, and Mary Fenn (though she may have graduated by 1934).

I was also startled by the school bus picture on page 82. The bus shown here was not the first school bus driven by Eddie Ashworth. I rode on the earlier short, boxy vehicle from 1941–1945. The pictured bus is a sleeker, more streamlined, longer vehicle. I don't recall ever seeing this one after graduation in 1945. Incidentally, the folks in Monterey might enjoy knowing the Searles High School graduating class of 1945 just held their 55th reunion at the South Egremont Country Club banquet hall on June 26, 2000. Thirty-eight of us were in attendance, with twenty-four grads participating.

I look forward to my new subscription. Thank You!

— Shelton Stafford, Phoenix, Arizona

Rave for Dinah's Reviews

To the Editor:

Thanks you for the brilliant idea of publishing Dinah Mielke's children's book reviews! They are so delightful that even an old lady like me wants to read each and every book. As a former teacher I seem to remember the moans and groans of my young students when faced with book reports. Dinah's enthusiasm is totally refreshing; she should have a future in the *New York Times*. Bravo!

— Alice O. Howell, Monterey

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Personal Notes

Happy Birthday wishes to **Rita Gottlieb** and **Karla Eileen Brady** on the 1st, **Jim Gauthier** and **Mabel Sheridan** on the 2nd, **Giuliana Raab** on the 4th, **Alyssa Mielke** on the 5th, **Oriana Raab** and **Paula Mielke** on the 6th, **Joseph Makuc** and **Tom Thorn** on the 9th, **Karen Shreefter** on the 11th, **Dave Quisenberry** on the 12th, **Taylor Amstead** and **Jeri Palmer** on the 17th, **Jill Amstead** on the 19th, **Ian Rodgers** on the 22nd, **Claire Mielke** on the 24th, **Stephen Bynack** and **Debra (Mrs. Charles) Mielke** on the 25th, **Elizabeth Orenstein, Emily Boyer, Keller Dinan,** and **Glynis Oliver** on the 26th, **Deborah (Mrs. Rick) Mielke** on the 27th, and **Gisela Freundlich** on the 31st.

Happy Anniversary to **Dick and Barbara Tryon** on the 5th.

This month's swing down memory lane first brings us to **1971:** Two of our very active girls, Susan Bynack and Karen Ryder participated in the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield. Susan took part in the 4-H Horse Show on September 17 – 19; she received two "very goods" and three "goods." Karen modeled her clothing in the Youtharama Building on the 17th. These girls have worked very hard on their projects and deserve a great deal of credit.

Jane Salamon

Sophie Salamon Antonioli picking raspberries at Lowland Farm

1980: Elizabeth Darling Hoogs, daughter of Robert and Cynthia Hoogs (daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tryon) of Housatonic (and now of Monterey!) was baptized at the Monterey United Church of Christ on October 12.

1990: It's cheerful to go by the Monterey Kindergarten in the mornings and see and hear such happy hubbub. Monterey students joining teacher Susan Andersen and aide Linda Thorpe this fall are Joseph Borque, Cody Rosenthal, Stephen Bynack, Jared Holzman, Claire Mielke, Alix Tillet, and Heather Touponce.

Help us make future memories by contributing items to the Personal Notes. Call 528-1871 or drop a note to POB 211. Thanks.

— Deborah Mielke

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Calendar

Sunday, October 1: Lake Garfield drawdown begins.

Saturday, October 7: "Inspired by Rivers (and other things)," 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meetinghouse. Readings by local authors, hosted by Roy Blount, Jr. Free; reservations, information, (413) 229-3126.

Sunday, October 8:

Ancient Cairns Hike, 1:00 p.m., Bidwell House trails. $3.00 for adults, free for museum members.

Yom Kippur begins at sunset.

Monday, October 9:

Columbus Day, Town Offices closed.

Monterey Food Co-op orders due at Walsh's by 5:00 PM.

Saturday, October 14:

Sandisfield Historic Houses Tour, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. See p. 13.

"Award Winning Authors," 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meetinghouse. Readings by Colette Rossant, Stefan Kanfer, Susan Tift & Alex Jones, hosted by Mitchel Levitas of *New York Times*. $15; reservations, information, (413) 229-3126.

"Travels with my Fiddle," 8:00 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Road off Rt. 57, Sandisfield. Judith Davidoff will perform music of four continents on viola da gamba, Turkish Black Sea fiddle, and Chinese erhu. $8; reservations (413) 258-4904.

Friday, October 13: Full Moon.

Sunday, October 15: Last day to tour the Bidwell House for the season, 11:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 17: Free blood pressure clinic, 9:00–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Friday, Oct. 20: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up at Meetinghouse Basement. Distribution: 7:00–11:00 a.m. Pick-up: after 11 a.m.

Saturday, October 28: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by David Kaynor. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.

Sunday, October 29: Daylight Savings Time ends; set clocks back one hour.

The Observer
August 26—Septemberber 25

High temp. (9/3)	89°
Low temp. (9/25)	40°
Avg. high temp.	75.6°
Avg. low temp.	51.8°
Avg. temp.	63.7°
Total precipitation	4.81"

Precipitation occurred on 12 days.

Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for October

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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 15; Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Glynis Oliver, pp. 2, 7, 11.

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